

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, NL, PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: RADICALS FAVOR DUTCH LEAVING NATO

1. SUMMARY: IN SPECIAL NATO CONGRESS JUNE 22, POLITICAL PARTY OF THE RADICALS (PPR), A COALITION PARTICIPANT, VOTED 169 TO 127 IN FAVOR OF DUTCH WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO; RADICALS' DECISION HAS UPSET LABOR PARTY LEADERSHIP WHICH FEARS EFFECT ON ITS OWN LEFT WING AND HAS ANGERED STRONGLY PRO-NATO RELIGIOUS PARTIES IN COALITION. END SUMMARY.

2. AT A SPECIAL NATO CONGRESS IN UTRECHT JUNE 22, THE POLITICAL PARTY OF THE RADICALS (PPR), BY A VOTE OF 169 TO 127, PUT PPR ON RECORD AS FAVORING DUTCH WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO SINCE NATO DEPENDS ON NUCLEAR STRATEGY. RADICAL RANK AND FILE'S DECISION WAS STRONGLY OPPOSED BY RADICAL PARTY FLOOR LEADER DE GAAY FORTMAN AND HIS COLLEAGUES IN SECOND CHAMBER RADICAL CAUCUS. RADICAL'S RESOLUTION WILL HAVE NO EFFECT ON PARTICIPATION OF TWO

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RADICAL MINISTERS AND ONE STATE SECRETARY IN CURRENT

COALITION SINCE THEY WILL CONTINUE TO ADHERE TO ORIGINAL GOVT. AGREEMENT WHICH PERMITTED THEIR PARTICIPATION IN DEN UYL COALITION. THIS INCLUDES NATO MEMBERSHIP ITEM.

3. RADICALS' RESOLUTION WAS MAJOR DEFEAT FOR DE GAAY FORTMAN AND HIS PARLIAMENTARY COLLEAGUES WHO ARGUED GON'S CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP IN NATO WAS ESSENTIAL FOR ACTIVE DETENTE POLICY. PARLIAMENTARY LEADERSHIP PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE RESOLUTION STATING GON SHOULD NOT LEAVE NATO UNTIL AN ALTERNATIVE AVAILABLE, BUT THIS WAS REJECTED.

4. REACTION TO RADICALS' RESOLUTION WAS ALMOST IMMEDIATE. KVP FLOOR LEADER ANDRIESSEN REPORTEDLY SAID KVP PARTICIPATION IN ANY FUTURE COALITION IN WHICH PPR ALSO REPRESENTED NOW UNACCEPTABLE. CDA CHAIRMAN, PROF. STEENKAMP, WAS FEARFUL OF CONTAGIOUS EFFECT PPR RESOLUTION WOULD HAVE ON LEFT WING OF LABOR PARTY WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO HAVE ITS OWN SPECIAL FOREIGN AFFAIRS CONGRESS IN APRIL 1975. LABOR PARTY DEFENSE SPECIALIST DE VRIES, WHO ATTENDED RADICAL CONGRESS AS OBSERVER, SAID THAT HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND HOW RADICALS COULD ACCEPT MOTION WHEN NO ALTERNATIVE TO NATO EXISTED AND FEARED ITS NEGATIVE EFFECT ON HARMONY WITHIN COALITION.

5. COMMENT: PPR HAS ALWAYS INCLUDED SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF PACIFIST-INCLINED YOUNG EXTREMISTS. AT JUNE 22 MEETING THEY OUTVOTED MORE MODERATE (RELATIVELY AT LEAST) PARLIAMENTARY LEADERSHIP. THOUGH RADICALS' RESOLUTION HAS NO EFFECT UNTIL AFTER COMPLETION OF DEN UYL GOVERNMENT'S TERM IN OFFICE, IT WILL CERTAINLY NOT IMPROVE ATMOSPHERE WITHIN COALITION. MOST WORRISOME ASPECT OF RESOLUTION IS POTENTIAL EFFECT ON LABOR PARTY. LABOR HAS ALWAYS BEEN WARY OF LOSING YOUNGER LEFT WING MEMBERS TO MORE EXTREME RADICALS. EXTREME LEFT WITHIN LABOR PARTY NOW HAS ADDITIONAL ARGUMENT FOR PARTY TAKING ANTI-NATO STAND NEXT YEAR, VIZ LABOR CANNOT RISK LEAVING RADICALS OUT IN FRONT ON ISSUE WITH SO MCUH APPEAL TO YOUNGER VOTERS.
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